

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION**

MALIKIE INNOVATIONS LTD.,
KEY PATENT INNOVATIONS LTD.

Plaintiffs,

v.

MARA HOLDINGS, INC. (F/K/A
MARATHON DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC

Defendant.

CASE NO. 7:25-cv-00222-DC-DTG

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PROTECTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs Malikie Innovations Ltd. and Key Patent Innovations Ltd. (collectively “Plaintiffs” or “Malikie”) and Defendant MARA Holdings, Inc. (“Defendant” or “MARA”) (together the “Parties”) believe that certain information that is or will be encompassed by discovery demands by the Parties involves the production or disclosure of trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information;

WHEREAS, the Parties seek a protective order limiting disclosure thereof in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c):

THEREFORE, it is hereby stipulated among the Parties and ORDERED that:

1. Each Party¹ may designate as confidential for protection under this Order, in whole or in part, any document, information or material that constitutes or includes, in whole or in part, confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets of the Party or a Third Party to whom the Party reasonably believes it owes an obligation of confidentiality with respect to such document, information or material (“Protected Material”). Protected Material shall

¹ In addition to the named plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) to this lawsuit, “Party” and “Parties” also refers Third Parties (defined below) pursuant to paragraphs 21 and 22 of this Order.

be designated by the Party producing it by affixing a legend or stamp on such document, information or material as follows: “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE.” The proper designation shall be placed clearly on each page, electronic file, or electronic media containing electronic files of the Protected Material (except deposition and hearing transcripts) for which such protection is sought. For deposition and hearing transcripts, the designation shall be placed on the cover page of the transcript (if not already present on the cover page of the transcript when received from the court reporter) by each attorney receiving a copy of the transcript after that attorney receives notice of the designation of some or all of that transcript under this Order.

2. Any document produced under Patent Rules 2-2, 3-2, and/or 3-4 before issuance of this Order with the designation “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY” shall receive the same treatment as if designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY” under this Order, unless and until such document is redesignated to have a different classification under this Order.
3. With respect to documents, information or material designated “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE” (“DESIGNATED MATERIAL”),² subject to the provisions herein and unless otherwise stated, this Order governs, without limitation: (a) all documents, electronically stored information, and/or things as defined by the Federal

² The term DESIGNATED MATERIAL is used throughout this Protective Order to refer to the class of materials designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE,” both individually and collectively.

Rules of Civil Procedure; (b) all pretrial, hearing or deposition testimony, or documents marked as exhibits or for identification in depositions and hearings; (c) pretrial pleadings, exhibits to pleadings and other court filings; (d) affidavits; (e) expert reports; and (f) stipulations. All copies, reproductions, extracts, digests and complete or partial summaries prepared from any DESIGNATED MATERIALS shall also be considered DESIGNATED MATERIAL and treated as such under this Order.

4. A designation of Protected Material (i.e., “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE”) may be made at any time. Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents, information or material that has not been designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a claim for confidential treatment. Any party that inadvertently or unintentionally produces Protected Material without designating it as DESIGNATED MATERIAL may request destruction of that Protected Material by notifying the recipient(s), as soon as reasonably possible after the producing Party becomes aware of the inadvertent or unintentional disclosure, and providing replacement Protected Material that is properly designated. The recipient(s) shall then destroy all copies of the inadvertently or unintentionally produced Protected Materials and any documents, information or material derived from or based thereon.
5. “CONFIDENTIAL” documents, information and material may be disclosed only to the following persons, except upon receipt of the prior written consent of the designating party, upon order of the Court, or as set forth in paragraph 14 herein:
 - (a) outside counsel of record in this Action for the Parties;

- (b) employees of such counsel assigned to and reasonably necessary to assist such counsel in the litigation of this Action;
 - (c) in-house counsel for the Parties who either have responsibility for making decisions dealing directly with the litigation of this Action, or who are assisting outside counsel in the litigation of this Action and reasonably necessary to assist such counsel in the litigation of this Action;
 - (d) One (1) designated representative of each of the Parties to the extent reasonably necessary for the litigation of this Action, except that either party may in good faith request the other party's consent to designate one or more additional representatives, the other party shall not unreasonably withhold such consent, and the requesting party may seek leave of Court to designate such additional representative(s) if the requesting party believes the other party has unreasonably withheld such consent;
 - (e) outside consultants or experts (i.e., not existing employees or affiliates of a Party or an affiliate of a Party) retained for the purpose of this litigation, provided that: (1) such consultants or experts are not presently employed by a Party hereto for purposes other than this Action (not including outside consultants or experts who have also been retained by the same Party for another Action); (2) before access is given, the consultant or expert has completed the Undertaking attached as Appendix A hereto and the same is served upon the producing Party with a current curriculum vitae of the consultant or expert and a list of cases for which the consultant or expert presented testimony (including, but not limited to, written testimony, deposition testimony, and live trial testimony) in the past six years, at least ten (10) days before access to the Protected Material is to be given to that consultant or expert, so that the producing Party may object to and notify the receiving Party in writing that it objects to disclosure of Protected Material to the consultant or expert. The Parties agree to promptly confer and use good faith to resolve any such objection. If the Parties are unable to resolve any objection, the objecting Party may file a motion with the Court within fifteen (15) days of the notice, or within such other time as the Parties may agree, seeking a protective order with respect to the proposed disclosure. The objecting Party shall have the burden of proving the need for a protective order. No disclosure shall occur until all such objections are resolved by agreement or Court order;
 - (f) independent litigation support services, including persons working for or as court reporters, graphics or design services, jury or trial consulting services, and photocopy, document imaging, and database services retained by counsel and reasonably necessary to assist counsel with the litigation of this Action; and
 - (g) the Court and its personnel.
6. A Party shall designate documents, information, or material as "CONFIDENTIAL" only upon a good faith belief that the documents, information or material contains confidential

or proprietary information or trade secrets of the Party or a Third Party to whom the Party reasonably believes it owes an obligation of confidentiality with respect to such documents, information or material.

7. Documents, information or material produced pursuant to any discovery request in this Action, including but not limited to Protected Material designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL, shall be used by the Parties only in the litigation of this Action and shall not be used for any other purpose. Any person or entity who obtains access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL or the contents thereof pursuant to this Order shall not make any copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions of such DESIGNATED MATERIAL or any portion thereof except as may be reasonably necessary in the litigation of this Action. Any such copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions shall be classified DESIGNATED MATERIALS and subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Order.
8. To the extent a producing Party believes that certain Protected Material qualifying to be designated CONFIDENTIAL is so sensitive that its dissemination deserves even further limitation, the producing Party may designate such Protected Material “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or to the extent such Protected Material includes computer source code and/or live data (that is, data as it exists residing in a database or databases) (“Source Code Material”), the producing Party may designate such Protected Material as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE.” For the avoidance of doubt, “Source Code Material” includes any photocopies, printouts, or electronic copies of the computer source code and/or live data.

9. For Protected Material designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY, access to, and disclosure of, such Protected Material shall be limited to individuals listed in paragraphs 5(a-b) and (e-g).
10. For Protected Material designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE”, the following additional restrictions apply:
 - (a) Access to a Party’s Source Code Material shall be provided only on up to two “standalone” password-protected computer(s) (that is, the computer(s) may not be linked to any network, including a local area network (“LAN”), an intranet or the Internet) (“Source Code Computer(s)”). The second Source Code Computer will be provided for good cause within 3 business days of the receiving Party’s request. The Source Code Computer(s) shall be provided with two additional monitors of reasonable size, an external keyboard, and an external mouse. The receiving Party shall not copy, remove, or otherwise transfer any portion of the source code onto any recordable media or recordable device. The producing Party may periodically check in on the activities of the receiving Party’s representative(s) during any source code review from outside the room in which the Source Code Computer(s) are located, but only to ensure that there is no unauthorized recording, copying, or transmission of the source code (while taking all reasonable precautions to avoid intrusions on the receiving Party’s representatives’ review, viewing the receiving Party’s privileged or work product material, or hearing the receiving Party’s private conversations). The producing Party shall not record (visually, audibly, or by other means) the activities or conversations of the receiving Party’s representative(s). Additionally, except as provided in paragraph 10 (j) below, or absent agreement otherwise by the Parties (including the Parties and the producing Party, if different), the Source Code Computer(s) may only be located at the offices of the producing Party’s outside counsel. The producing Party’s outside counsel shall preserve the Source Code Computer(s) until thirty (30) days after final termination of this Action, including any appeals;
 - (b) The receiving Party shall make reasonable efforts to restrict its requests for such access to the Source Code Computer(s) to normal business hours, which for purposes of this paragraph shall be 9:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. local time. However, for good cause and upon reasonable notice from the receiving party (at least five business days before the requested access), the producing Party shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the receiving Party’s reasonable request for access to the Source Code Computer(s) outside of normal business hours. The Parties agree to cooperate in good faith such that maintaining the producing Party’s Source Code Material at the offices of its outside counsel shall not unreasonably hinder the receiving Party’s ability to efficiently and effectively conduct the prosecution or defense of this Action;

- (c) The producing Party shall provide the receiving Party with information explaining how to start, log on to, and operate the Source Code Computer(s) in order to access the produced Source Code Material on the Source Code Computer(s);
- (d) The producing Party will produce Source Code Material in computer searchable format on the Source Code Computer(s). The receiving Party may request software tools of its own choosing for viewing and searching the Source Code Material be installed on the computer, provided, however, that such review of the Source Code Material are in compliance with all of the terms, conditions, and protections herein. The receiving Party must provide the producing Party with the CD or DVD containing such licensed software tool(s), or a link to a website where the software may be downloaded for installation together with any necessary license, at least five (5) business days in advance of the date upon which the receiving Party wishes to have the software tools available for use on the computer(s). Should the producing Party have any concerns about the requested tool, such as that they are used for things other than reviewing and searching source code or not commonly accepted in the industry, the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith to resolve any such concerns. Otherwise, assuming the above conditions are met, the producing Party shall install the requested software tools on the Source Code Computer(s);
- (e) Access to Protected Material designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE shall be limited to outside counsel and up to three (3) outside consultants or experts³ (*i.e.*, not existing employees or affiliates of a Party or an affiliate of a Party) retained for the purpose of this litigation and approved to access such Protected Materials pursuant to paragraph 5(e) above. A receiving Party may include excerpts of Source Code Material in a pleading, exhibit, expert report, discovery document, deposition transcript, or other Court document (“Source Code Documents”), provided that the Source Code Documents are appropriately marked under this Order, restricted to those who are entitled to have access to them as specified herein, and, if filed with the Court, filed under seal in accordance with the Court’s rules, procedures and orders. The Parties shall include copies of only those portions of Source Code Material that are necessary in Source Code Documents;
- (f) To the extent portions of Source Code Material are quoted in a Source Code Document, either (1) the entire Source Code Document will be stamped and treated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE or (2) those pages containing quoted Source Code Material will be separately stamped and treated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE;
- (g) Except as set forth in paragraphs 10 (i), (j) below, no electronic copies of Source Code Material shall be made without prior written consent of the producing Party,

³ For the purposes of this paragraph, an outside consultant or expert is defined to include the outside consultant’s or expert’s direct reports and other support personnel, such that the disclosure to a consultant or expert who employs others within his or her firm to help in his or her analysis shall count as a disclosure to a single consultant or expert.

except as necessary to create documents which, pursuant to the Court's rules, procedures and order, must be filed or served electronically;

- (h) The receiving Party shall be permitted to request printouts and photocopies of Source Code Material, up to 400 pages total, with no more than 30 pages consecutively. The producing Party shall provide such requested source code in paper form including bates numbers within five (5) business days of receiving the request, all of which shall be designed and clearly labeled "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE," and the receiving Party shall maintain a log of all such files that are printed and photocopied. Should such printouts or photocopies be transferred back to electronic media as described below in Paragraph 10(k), such media shall be labeled "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE" and shall continue to be treated as such;
- (i) If the receiving Party's outside counsel, consultants, or experts obtain printouts or photocopies of Source Code Material, the receiving Party shall ensure that such outside counsel, consultants, or experts keep the copies in a secured locked area in the offices of such outside counsel, consultants, or expert. The receiving Party may also temporarily keep the copies at: (i) the Court for any proceedings(s) relating to the Source Code Material, for the dates associated with the proceeding(s); (ii) the sites where any deposition(s) relating to the Source Code Material are taken, for the dates associated with the deposition(s); and (iii) any intermediate location reasonably necessary to transport the copies (*e.g.*, a hotel prior to a Court proceeding or deposition); and
- (j) A producing Party's Source Code Material may only be transported by the receiving Party at the direction of a person authorized under paragraph 10(e) above to another person authorized under paragraph 10(e) above, on paper via hand carry, Federal Express or other similarly reliable courier. Source Code Material may not be transported or transmitted electronically over a network of any kind, including a LAN, an intranet, or the Internet, except as necessary for a Court proceeding. Source Code Material may only be transported electronically for the purpose of Court proceeding(s) as set forth in paragraph 10(i) above and is at all times subject to the transport restrictions set forth herein. But, for that purpose only, the Source Code Materials may be loaded onto a Source Code Computer.
- (k) Upon request by a receiving Party, a producing Party shall make available a Source Code Computer for use during the deposition of a producing Party witness or expert (subject to the restrictions of paragraph 14 below). Such requests must be made at least five (5) business days in advance of the deposition date or, if agreement is made as to the date of the deposition less than five (5) business days in advance of the deposition, then at the time of the Parties' agreement as to the date of the deposition. To the extent a Source Code Computer is used during a deposition, the deposition shall occur at the offices of the producing Party's outside counsel, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

11. Absent written consent from the producing Party, any individual who receives access to and review HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES ’ ONLY and/or HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE technical information (collectively “HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL”) shall not prepare, prosecute, supervise, or assist in the preparation or prosecution of any patent application pertaining to the field of the invention of any patent-in-suit on behalf of the receiving Party or its acquirer, successor, predecessor, or other affiliate during the pendency of this Action and for one year after its conclusion, including any appeals. For purposes of this paragraph, “prosecution” includes any activity related to (i) the preparation or prosecution (for any person or entity) of patent applications, including reissue applications or (ii) participating, drafting, amending, advising, or otherwise affecting the scope or maintenance of patent claims. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a person with access to HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL from participating in a PTO proceeding, *e.g.*, *inter partes* review, post-grant review, or *ex parte* reexamination, except for that person shall not participate in the amendment of any claim(s). To ensure compliance with the purpose of this provision, each Party shall create an “Ethical Wall” between those persons with access to HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL and any individuals who, on behalf of the Party or its acquirer, successor, predecessor, or other affiliate, prepare, prosecute, supervise or assist in the preparation or prosecution of any patent application pertaining to the field of invention of any patent-in-suit. This Prosecution Bar shall begin when HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL is first reviewed by the affected individual.
12. Nothing in this Order shall require production of documents, information or other material that a Party contends is protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, the work

product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity. The Court's Discovery Order shall govern issues related to attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity.

13. There shall be no disclosure of any DESIGNATED MATERIAL by any person authorized to have access thereto to any person who is not authorized for such access under this Order. The Parties are hereby ORDERED to safeguard all such documents, information and material to protect against disclosure to any unauthorized persons or entities. If documents, information, or other material subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity is inadvertently or unintentionally produced, such production shall in no way prejudice or otherwise constitute a waiver of, or estoppel as to, any such privilege, doctrine, or immunity. Any Party that inadvertently or unintentionally produces documents, information, or other material it reasonably believes are protected under the attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity may obtain the return of such documents, information, or other material by promptly notifying the recipient(s) and providing a privilege log for the inadvertently or unintentionally produced documents, information, or other material. The recipient(s) shall gather and return all copies of such documents, information, or other material to the producing Party, except for any pages containing privileged or otherwise protected markings by the recipient(s), which pages shall instead be destroyed and certified as such to the producing Party.
14. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prejudice any Party's right to use any DESIGNATED MATERIAL in taking testimony at any deposition or hearing provided that the DESIGNATED MATERIAL is only disclosed to a person(s) who is: (i) eligible to

have access to the DESIGNATED MATERIAL by virtue of his or her employment with the designating party, (ii) identified in the DESIGNATED MATERIAL as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such information, (iii) although not identified as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such DESIGNATED MATERIAL, has, in the ordinary course of business, seen such DESIGNATED MATERIAL, (iv) a current or former officer, director or employee of the producing Party or a current or former officer, director or employee of a company affiliated with the producing Party; (v) counsel for a Party, including outside counsel and in-house counsel (subject to paragraph 9 of this Order); (vi) an independent contractor, consultant, and/or expert retained for the purpose of this litigation; (vii) court reporters and videographers; (viii) the Court; or (ix)) other persons entitled hereunder to access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL. DESIGNATED MATERIAL shall not be disclosed to any other persons unless prior authorization is obtained from counsel representing the producing Party or from the Court.

15. Parties may, at the deposition or hearing or within thirty (30) days after receipt of a deposition or hearing transcript, designate the deposition or hearing transcript or any portion thereof as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE” pursuant to this Order. Access to the deposition or hearing transcript so designated shall be limited in accordance with the terms of this Order. Until expiration of the 30- day period, the entire deposition or hearing transcript shall be treated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY.
16. For the purpose of mediation and settlement, each party shall be permitted to designate one (1) representative of a Party with mediation and/or settlement authority. Each receiving

Party may identify DESIGNATED MATERIAL it believes is necessary for the designated representative to participate meaningfully in mediation or to exercise settlement authority. Within five (5) business days of any such identification, the parties shall confer on the producing Party's request. The producing Party may agree to the disclosure, suggest redactions prior to disclosure, or oppose the disclosure, but such opposition shall not be unreasonable. Should the parties not reach agreement on disclosure or redaction, the dispute shall be submitted to the mediator or Court via joint letter brief (wherein each party is limited to one thousand (1,000) words).

17. Any DESIGNATED MATERIAL that is filed with the Court shall be filed under seal and shall remain under seal until further order of the Court. The filing party shall be responsible for informing the Clerk of the Court that the filing should be sealed and for placing the legend "FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER" above the caption and conspicuously on each page of the filing. Exhibits to a filing shall conform to the labeling requirements set forth in this Order. If a pretrial pleading filed with the Court, or an exhibit thereto, discloses or relies on confidential documents, information or material, such confidential portions shall be redacted to the extent necessary and the pleading or exhibit filed publicly with the Court.
18. This Order applies to pretrial discovery. Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to prevent the Parties from introducing any DESIGNATED MATERIAL into evidence at the trial of this Action, or from using any information contained in DESIGNATED MATERIAL at the trial of this Action, subject to any pretrial order issued by this Court.
19. A Party may request in writing to the other Party that the designation given to any DESIGNATED MATERIAL be modified or withdrawn. If the designating Party does not

agree to redesignation within ten (10) days of receipt of the written request, the requesting Party may apply to the Court for relief. Upon any such application to the Court, the burden shall be on the designating Party to show why its classification is proper. Such application shall be treated procedurally as a motion to compel pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 37, subject to the Rule's provisions relating to sanctions. In making such application, the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Court shall be met. Pending the Court's determination of the application, the designation of the designating Party shall be maintained.

20. Each outside consultant or expert to whom DESIGNATED MATERIAL is disclosed in accordance with the terms of this Order shall be advised by counsel of the terms of this Order, shall be informed that he or she is subject to the terms and conditions of this Order, and shall sign an acknowledgment that he or she has received a copy of, has read, and has agreed to be bound by this Order. A copy of the acknowledgment form is attached as Appendix A.
21. To the extent that any discovery is taken of persons who are not Parties to this Action ("Third Parties") and in the event that such Third Parties contended the discovery sought involves trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information, then such Third Parties may agree to be bound by this Order.
22. To the extent that discovery or testimony is taken of Third Parties, the Third Parties may designate as "CONFIDENTIAL," "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES' ONLY," or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL - SOURCE CODE" any documents, information, or other material, in whole or in part, produced or given by such Third Parties. The Third Parties shall have ten (10) days after production of such documents, information

or other materials to make such a designation. Until that time period lapses or until such a designation has been made, whichever occurs sooner, all documents, information or other material so produced or given shall be treated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY” in accordance with this Order.

23. The provisions of this Order shall continue to be binding after final termination of this case until a Producing Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Within sixty (60) days of final termination of this Action, including any appeals, all DESIGNATED MATERIAL, including all copies, duplicates, abstracts, indexes, summaries, descriptions, and excerpts or extracts thereof (excluding excerpts or extracts incorporated into any privileged memoranda of the Parties and materials which have been admitted into evidence in this Action), shall at the producing Party’s election either be returned to the producing Party or be destroyed. The receiving Party shall verify the return or destruction by affidavit furnished to the producing Party, upon the producing Party’s request. Notwithstanding the foregoing, outside counsel of record shall be entitled to maintain copies of all pleadings, expert reports, motions and trial briefs (including all supporting and opposing papers and exhibits thereto), written discovery requests and responses (and exhibits thereto), deposition transcripts (and exhibits thereto), trial transcripts and hearing transcripts, and exhibits offered or introduced into evidence at any hearing or trial, emails and their attachments, and their attorney work product which refers or is related to any Protected Material for archival purposes only. Any such archived copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Order and shall be maintained in confidence by outside counsel for the Party retaining the materials. This provision does not apply to the Court, including court personnel and the Court’s reporter.

Any destruction obligations under this Protective Order shall not apply to electronically-stored information in archival form stored on backup tapes or computer servers that are created only for disaster recovery purposes, provided that such electronic archives are not used as reference materials for a receiving Party's business operations.

24. The failure to designate documents, information or material in accordance with this Order and the failure to object to a designation at a given time shall not preclude the filing of a motion at a later date seeking to impose such designation or challenging the propriety thereof. The entry of this Order and/or the production of documents, information and material hereunder shall in no way constitute a waiver of any objection to the furnishing thereof, all such objections being hereby preserved.
25. Any Party (including any Third Party that has produced DESIGNATED MATERIAL) knowing or believing that any other Party is in violation of or intends to violate this Order and has raised the question of violation or potential violation with that Party and has been unable to resolve the matter by agreement may move the Court for such relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances. Pending disposition of the motion by the Court, the Party alleged to be in violation of or intending to violate this Order shall discontinue the performance of and/or shall not undertake the further performance of any action alleged to constitute a violation of this Order.
26. Production of DESIGNATED MATERIAL by each of the Parties or by any Third Parties shall not be deemed a publication of the documents, information and material (or the contents thereof) produced so as to void or make voidable whatever claim the Parties may have as to the proprietary and confidential nature of the documents, information or other material or its contents.

27. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to effect an abrogation, waiver or limitation of any kind on the rights of each of the Parties to assert any applicable discovery or trial privilege.
28. Each of the Parties shall also retain the right to file a motion with the Court (a) to modify this Order to allow disclosure of DESIGNATED MATERIAL to additional persons or entities if reasonably necessary to prepare and present this Action and (b) to apply for additional protection of DESIGNATED MATERIAL.

SIGNED this 5th day of December, 2025.


DEREK T. GILLILAND
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION**

MALIKIE INNOVATIONS LTD.,
KEY PATENT INNOVATIONS LTD.

Plaintiffs,

v.

MARA HOLDINGS, INC. (F/K/A
MARATHON DIGITAL HOLDINGS, INC

Defendant.

CASE NO. 7:25-cv-00222-DC-DTG

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**APPENDIX A
UNDERTAKING OF EXPERTS OR CONSULTANTS
REGARDING PROTECTIVE ORDER**

I, _____, declare that:

1. My address is _____.
My current employer is _____.
My current occupation is _____.
2. I have received a copy of the Protective Order in this action. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Protective Order.
3. I will comply with all of the provisions of the Protective Order. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Protective Order, and will use only for purposes of this action any information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE” that is disclosed to me.

4. Promptly upon termination of this action, I will return all documents and things designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES’ ONLY,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE” that came into my possession, and all documents and things that I have prepared relating thereto, to the outside counsel for the party by whom I am employed.
5. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of the Protective Order in this action.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature _____

Date _____